

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 024492
ORIGIN SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OES-07 /019 R

DRAFTED BY SMI/OIP:RTCONROY:BB
APPROVED BY OES/APT/BMP:ASCHAPMAN
SMI/OIP:KBSCHMERTZ
SMI/SCIENCE:MCOX
ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO
OES/APT/BMP:CVGORSEY
OES/APT/BMP:CVGROSEY
-----095600 310248Z /66
P 302319Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC,TBIO

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN - RESEARCH AT DARWIN STATION ON
GALAPAGOS

1. SMITHSONIAN LEARNED OF APPARENT CONFISCATION BY
GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR OF THREE RADIO TRANSCEIVERS THAT
ARE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND WERE BEING TAKEN TO ECUADOR
FOR USE BY CHARLES DARWIN RESEARCH STATION (CDRS) IN
DECEMBER. EXACT DATE OF TRANSCEIVERS' ARRIVAL QUITO AND
CIRCUMSTANCES OF CONFISCATION NOT CLEAR, BUT LETTER
RECEIVED JANUARY 24TH FROM OUTGOING CDRS DIRECTOR CRAIG
MACFARLAND STATES FOLLOWING: JAMES HINKLE (AMERICAN
RESIDENT IN ECUADOR WHO WAS ACTING AS COURIER WITH TRANS-
CEIVERS BECAUSE OF THEIR FRAGILITY) ARRIVED IN QUITO WITH-
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OUT TRANSCEIVERS HAVING LEFT THEM IN BOGOTA BECAUSE OF
INSUFFICIENT EXCESS BAGGAGE FUNDS. TRANSCEIVERS WERE SENT
FOR BUT WERE CONFISCATED UPON ARRIVAL QUITO AIRPORT. CDRS
AGENT GUAYAQUIL JUAN BLACK (CENTRO DE INFORMACION GALAPAGOS)
IS ATTEMPTING EFFECT RELEASE TRANSCEIVERS.

2. SMITHSONIAN FEARS ALL CONCERNED WILL LOSE SIGHT OF

FACT TRANSCEIVERS ARE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROPERTY OF CONSIDER-
ABLE VALUE (DOLS 5,100 WHOLESALE), AND WOULD THEREFORE
APPRECIATE EMBASSY LOOKING INTO MATTER. MACFARLAND EXPECTS

TO BE IN QUITO BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1 AND 10 AND TO STAY AT
RESIDENCIA CUMBRES. HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
COMPLETE BACKGROUND ON AFFAIR.

3. TRANSCEIVERS MANUFACTURED BY R.L. DRAKE CO. AND ARE
MODEL TR-M BEARING SERIAL NUMBERS "CDRS-001, 002 AND
003." THIS SPECIAL SERIAL NUMBER COMMISSIONED BY DRAKE
COMPANY IN HONOR OF DARWIN STATION. SMITHSONIAN INTENTION
WAS FOR TRANSCEIVERS TO BE ON LONG TERM LOAN TO CDRS AND
IMPORTED ECUADOR UNDER STANDING CDRS ARRANGEMENT WITH GOE
FOR IMPORTATION OF RESEARCH EQUIPMENT. SMITHSONIAN WOULD
LIKE TO EFFECT LOAN TO CDRS BUT FAILING THAT, WOULD
INSIST GOE ALLOW RETURN OF EQUIPMENT TO U.S. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESEARCH, RADIO EQUIPMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE024492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RTCONROY:BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780045-0302
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978016/aaaaafeh.tel
Line Count: 78
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7b9463e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SMI
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3769893
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SMITHSONIAN - RESEARCH AT DARWIN STATION ON GALAPAGOS
TAGS: TBIO, EC, US, SMI
To: QUITO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7b9463e3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014